

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 2. This sheet replaces the original sheet including FIG. 2. In Figure 2, the reference numeral attached to the “wireless device” box has been changed from 35 to 33.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1 and 3-10 will be pending. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 7, 9, and 10 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Drawings

In Section 2 of the Office Action, Figure 2 stands objected to for showing two different elements with reference numeral 35. Figure 2 has been corrected to obviate the objections.

§112 Rejection of Claims 1 and 3-9

In Section 4 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 3-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with written description requirement. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, and 10 have been amended to address the rejection.

§103 Rejection of Claims 9 and 10

In Section 6 of the Office Action, claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Borgstahl (U.S. Patent No. 5,909,183) in combination with Eisenhandler (U.S. Patent No. 5,452,291) and Shteyn (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,136). Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to address the rejection.

In the Background section of the Specification, it was disclosed that “the portable information devices such as a cellular phone and PDAs have remarkably progressed as well as the home network. The use of portable information devices is however limited to out-of-home

uses such as phone calling, data communication, and schedule management, and is isolated from home appliances. Resources and units on a portable information device, such as operation and display units, therefore are not usable for the home network. ... Portable information devices such as a cellular phone and PDAs are independently operated on themselves, not intended to be operated by external equipment. If the portable information devices, which are progressing in personalization, share resources of external equipment, they can be exploited effectively.”

Background of the Specification, page 3, lines 1-14.

To address the above-described shortcomings of the conventional portable information devices and home networks, embodiments of the present invention provide a capability for portable information devices to operate efficiently with a home network. For example, the steps of method claim 9, as presented herein, include:

“A method for accessing a home network, comprising:

receiving from a portable wireless information device a request for accessing information used to designate home appliances and electronic devices included in said home network including a bridge configured to change the protocol between low-speed network for connecting home appliances and high-speed network for connecting electronic devices, which provides conversion of formats of messages and character codes, and enables exchange of address structures;

recognizing, upon receipt of the request for access, an address for designating home appliances or electronic devices with which said portable wireless information device will communicate; and

enabling exchange of data between the low-speed network connecting home appliances or high-speed network connecting electronic devices designated by said address and said portable wireless information device by providing conversion of transmission rates and protocols to enable communication between said home appliances and electronic devices connected to said home network and said portable information device.”

(emphasis added)

Accordingly, in one aspect of claim 9, the home network accessing method includes: *receiving* a request for accessing information used to designate home appliances and electronic devices included in said home network including a bridge configured to change the protocol between low-speed network and high-speed network, which provides conversion of formats of messages and character codes, and enables exchange of address structures; *recognizing* an address for designating home appliances or electronic devices with which said portable wireless information device will communicate; and *enabling* exchange of data between the low-speed network or high-speed network and said portable wireless information device by providing conversion of transmission rates and protocols to enable communication between said home appliances and electronic devices connected to said home network and said portable information device.

By contrast, although Borgstahl, Eisenhandler, and Shteyn discuss a possibility of providing a portable device to communicate with a home network that networks devices with a gateway, Borgstahl, Eisenhandler, and Shteyn, in combination or individually, fail to teach or suggest a home network accessing method including: *receiving* a request for accessing information used to designate home appliances and electronic devices included in said home network including a bridge configured to change the protocol between low-speed network and high-speed network, which provides conversion of formats of messages and character codes, and enables exchange of address structures; *recognizing* an address for designating home appliances or electronic devices with which said portable wireless information device will communicate; and *enabling* exchange of data between the low-speed network or high-speed network and said portable wireless information device by providing conversion of transmission rates and protocols to enable communication between said home appliances and electronic devices connected to said

home network and said portable information device.

Based on the foregoing discussion, it is maintained that claim 9 should be allowable over the combination of Borgstahl, Eisenhandler, and Shteyn. Since claim 10 closely parallels, and recites substantially similar limitations as recited in, claim 9, claim 10 should also be allowable over the combination of Borgstahl, Eisenhandler, and Shteyn.

Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejection of claims 9 and 10 based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a) has been overcome by the present remarks and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, entry of this amendment, and the allowance of this application with claims 1 and 3-10 are respectfully solicited.

In regard to the claims amended herein and throughout the prosecution of this application, it is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes that have been made to these claims were not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes were made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

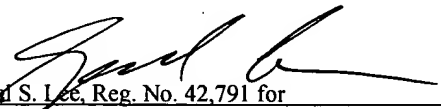
In the event that additional cooperation in this case may be helpful to complete its prosecution, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number written below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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FIG. 2

